

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cover for an equine leg or tail strap for securing a blanket comprising

a substantially rectangular cover material secured at opposite edges to form a tube that is sized to fit over an equine leg or tail strap, wherein the cover material is selected to stretch longitudinally along the axis of the tube and not stretch substantially radially, and for its anti-chafe and washability characteristics, and

a securing mechanism at each end of the tube for removably securing the cover to at least one of a strap and an equine blanket.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The cover of claim 1, wherein the cover material is at least one of polar fleece, fleece, cotton, synthetic blended fabric, sheepskin, leather, suede, stretch fabric Lyra, natural and synthetic fabrics, textiles, and blends thereof.

Claims 3 - 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): The cover of claim 1, wherein the cover material is secured at opposite edges with at least one of snaps, hook and loop fasteners, and sewing.

Claim 6 (original): The cover of claim 1, wherein the length of the tube is selected to fit the leg or tail strap of an equine between the sizes of miniature horse thoroughbreds, and draft horses.

Claim 7 (original): The cover of claim 1, wherein the length of the tube is longer than the shortest

adjusted strap length and shorter than the longest adjusted strap length when the strap is fully stretched.

Claim 8 (original): The cover of claim 1, wherein the length of the tube is three times the minimum adjusted strap length, plus or minus fifteen percent.

Claim 9 (original): The cover of claim 1, wherein the securing mechanism is at least one end of ties, hook and loop fasteners, and snaps.

Claim 10 (original): A system for securing a blanket to an equine comprising
two leg straps for securing to the blanket of a length sufficient to reach around one of an equine's hind legs, cross the other leg strap, and attach to the blanket,
one tail strap for securing to the blanket of a length sufficient to reach under an equine's tail and attach to the blanket,
two leg strap covers, each adapted to be removably secured to a leg strap,
one tail strap cover adapted to be removably secured to a tail strap, wherein the cover material is selected for its anti-chafe and washability characteristics.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system of claim 10, wherein the cover material is at least one of polar fleece, fleece, cotton, natural and synthetic blended fabric, sheepskin, woven wool, leather, suede, and stretch fabric Lyera.

Claim 12 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the cover material is selected to stretch longitudinally along the axis of the tube and not stretch significantly radially.

Claim 13 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the cover material is selected to stretch both longitudinally and radially along the axis of the tube.

Claim 14 (original): The system of claim 10 wherein the cover material is selected to stretch radially but not significantly longitudinally.

Claim 15 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the cover material is secured at opposite edges with at least one of snaps, hook and loop fasteners, and sewing.

Claim 16 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the length of the tube is selected to fit the leg or tail strap of an equine between the sizes of miniature horses and draft horses.

Claim 17 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the length of the tube is longer than the shortest adjusted strap length and shorter than the longest adjusted strap length when the strap is fully stretched.

Claim 18 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the length of the tube is three times the minimum adjusted strap length, plus or minus fifteen percent.

Claim 19 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the securing mechanism is at least one of ties, hook and loop fasteners, and snaps.